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Pennsylvania Press Release

PRESS RELEASE

MONDAY, FEBRUARY 7, 2000

PENNSYLVANIA EGG PRODUCTION DOWN 3 PERCENT IN DECEMBER

HARRISBURG — Egg production in Pennsylvania during December 1999 totaled 516 million eggs, down 3 percent from December 1998, according to the Pennsylvania Agricultural Statistics Service (PASS). The total number of layers on hand averaged 22.7 million during December, slightly below the 22.8 million one year earlier. Production per 100 layers was 2,271 eggs during the month, compared with 2,334 eggs in December 1998.

Egg-type chicks hatched during December 1999 totaled 4.80 million, 22 percent less than the 6.10 million hatched the previous December. Cumulative egg-type hatch for January through December 1999 was 64.6 million chicks, up less than 1 percent from the 64.3 million in 1998. Broiler-type chicks hatched totaled 12.8 million during December 1999, which was unchanged from the previous year. Cumulative broiler-type hatch for 1999 was 151.4 million, up less than 1 percent from the 150.8 million hatched in 1998.

United States' egg production totaled 7.27 billion during December 1999, up 3 percent from the 7.05 billion produced a year ago. The total number of layers during December averaged 329 million, up 2 percent from December 1998. Egg production per 100 layers was 2,213 eggs, compared with 2,190 in December 1998.

Egg-type chicks hatched in the United States during December totaled 32.7 million, 8 percent below December 1998. Broiler-type hatch totaled 748 million, 1 percent more than the previous December.